

What is claimed is:

1. An address inquiry system for informing an inquirer of a new address of a changer based on an old address of the changer via an Internet, comprising:

5 a data base relationally storing at least the old address, the new address, and an address disclosing condition capable of setting a condition whereby the changer judges whether to give permission to disclose the new address;

10 a means for searching the new address corresponding to the old address and the address disclosing condition from the data base when the inquirer sends an inquiry including the old address;

15 a means for making the changer confirm whether the new address is disclosed when the address disclosing condition in searching includes the set condition; and

a means for informing the inquirer of the new address when the changer permits the disclosure of the new address.

20 2. The address inquiry system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the data base includes a list of specific inquirers who are refused inquiries about the new address,

25 the system, further comprising: a means for refusing an inquiry from the inquirer included in the list.

3. The address inquiry system as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the data base relationally stores a plurality of old addresses and one new address.

4. The address inquiry system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the address disclosing condition is

5 allowed to be set on each of the plurality of old addresses in the data base.

5. The address inquiry system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the old address and the new address each

include at least one sort out of an electronic mail address, a home page address, a telephone number, an address, and a residence.

6. The address inquiry system as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

15 a means for informing the inquirer of the new address of a predetermined sort according to the sort of the old address included in the inquiry sent from the inquirer.

7. The address inquiry system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inquiry sent from the inquirer

20 includes a message text sent from the inquirer to the changer,

the system, further comprising:

25 a means for sending the message text to make the changer confirm whether the new address is disclosed according to the selection of the changer.

8. A system for making an inquiry about an address, comprising:

attribute information about a plurality of registrants when the plurality of registrants are searched with respect to the old address.

11. The system as set forth in claim 8,

5 wherein the disclosing condition includes information about inquirers to whom the address is disclosed or not disclosed, and

 wherein the disclosure judging means includes a confirming means for making the registrant confirm
10 whether the address is disclosed to the inquirer when the inquirer who inquires about the address is not registered in the inquirers in the disclosing condition.

12. The system as set forth in claim 11,

 wherein the information about the inquirers to
15 whom the address is disclosed or not disclosed includes information that the address is disclosed or not disclosed to all of the inquirers or only a part thereof.

13. The system as set forth in claim 11,

20 wherein the confirming means informs the registrant of the attribute information about the inquirer at the time of confirmation.

14. The system as set forth in claim 13,

 wherein the attribute information includes a
25 profile of the inquirer.

15. The system as set forth in claim 13, further comprising:

an inquirer attribute information storing means
for previously storing the attribute information about
the inquirer; and

an inquirer attribute information registering
5 means for accepting registration of the attribute
information from the inquirer when the attribute
information of the inquirer is not stored by the
inquirer attribute information storing means.

16. The system as set forth in claim 11,
10 wherein the confirming means allows a part or all
of a message to the registrant received from the
inquirer to be sent to the registrant.

17. The system as set forth in claim 11,
wherein the confirming means includes a disclosing
15 condition registering means for receiving a
confirmation result from the registrant and registering
the inquirer in the disclosing condition as an inquirer
to whom the address is disclosed or not disclosed.

18. The system as set forth in claim 11,
20 wherein the disclosure judging means refuses to
disclose the address to the inquirer when a response to
a confirmation requested by the confirming means is not
obtained from the registrant before a predetermined
deadline.

25 19. The system as set forth in claim 8, further
comprising:

a means for informing the registrant that the

inquirer made the inquiry about the address.

20. The system as set forth in claim 8,
wherein the address is an electronic mail address.

21. The system as set forth in claim 8,
5 wherein the address is a home page address.

22. The system as set forth in claim 8,
wherein the address is a telephone number or an
address/residence.

23 A computer software product for instructing a
10 computer system to inquire of a system for making an
inquiry about an address, about an address, comprising:
a storage medium; and

an inquiry instructing means, stored in the
storage medium and started based on the return of an
15 electronic mail because its destination is unknown, for
instructing the computer system to inquire of the
system for making the inquiry about the address about
an electronic mail address of an addressee of the
electronic mail.

24 A computer software product for instructing a
20 computer system to inquire of a system for making an
inquiry about an address, about an address, comprising:
a storage medium; and

an inquiry instructing means, stored in the
25 storage medium and started based on the impossibility
of display of a home page because its destination is
unknown, for instructing the computer system to inquire

of the system for making the inquiry, about the address about an address of the home page.

25. The computer software product as set forth in claim 24, further comprising:

5 a home page displaying means for instructing the computer system to display the home page concerned in the address based on the disclosure of the address by the system for inquiring about the address.

26 A method for inquiring about an address of a
10 registrant, comprising:

 an inquiry receiving step of receiving an inquiry about the address of the registrant from an inquirer;

 a registration judging step of judging whether the registrant is registered in an address data base;

15 a disclosure judging step of judging whether the address is disclosed to the inquirer based on a predetermined disclosing condition when the registrant is registered in the address data base; and

 an address disclosing step of disclosing the
20 address of the registrant to the inquirer if it is judged that the address is disclosed in the disclosure judging step.

27. The method as set forth in claim 26,

 wherein it is judged whether the registrant is
25 registered by searching the data base with an old address of the registrant in the registration judging step.

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wherein a part or all of a message to the registrant received from the inquirer is allowed to be sent to the registrant in the confirming step.

34. The method as set forth in claim 29,

5 wherein the confirming step includes a disclosing condition registering step of receiving a confirmation result from the registrant and registering the inquirer in the disclosing condition as an inquirer to whom the address is disclosed or not disclosed.

10 35. The method as set forth in claim 29,

 wherein the disclosure of the address to the inquirer is refused in the disclosure judging step when a response to a confirmation requested in the confirming step is not obtained from the registrant
15 before a predetermined deadline.

36. The method as set forth in claim 26, further comprising:

 a step of informing the registrant that the inquirer made the inquiry about the address.

20 37. The method as set forth in claim 26,

 wherein the address is an electronic mail address.

38. The method as set forth in claim 26,

 wherein the address is a home page address.

39. The method as set forth in claim 26,

25 wherein the address is a telephone number or an address/residence.

40. The method as set forth in claim 37, further

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a step of making an inquiry about the address based on the return of an electronic mail sent from the inquirer to the registrant because its destination is unknown.

a step of making an inquiry about the home page address of the registrant based on the refusal of a request for the display of a home page transmitted from the inquirer to the registrant because its destination is unknown.